

THE KOREAN REPOSITORY.

OCTOBER, 1898.

ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF THE KOREAN NUN RIGUWAN (리쥬완)

○FTTIMES in far Korea didst thou hear
Of our Cipango as a goodly land;
And so to parents and to brethren dear
Bidding adieu, thou sailed'st to the strand

Of these domains that own the imperial pow'r
Where glittering palaces unnumbered rise;
Yet such might please thee not, nor many a bow'r
Where village homestead greet the pilgrim's eyes;

But in this spot, at Sahoyama's* base
Some secret influence bade thee find thy rest,
Bade seek us out with loving eagerness,
As seeks the weeping infant for the breast.

And here with aliens thou didst choose to dwell
Year in, year out, in deepest sympathy;
And here thou builtest thee an holy cell:
And so the peaceful years went gliding by.

But oh! what living thing mote yet avoid
Death's dreary summons?—And thine home did sound
When all the friends on whom thine heart relied
Slept on strange pillows on the mossy ground.

* A mountain in the province of Yamats. The river Sahogaba, mentioned a little further on, runs past its base.

So, while the morn lit up Karuga's crest,
 O'er Sabogáha's flood thy corse they bore,
 To fill a tomb upon yon mountain's breast,
 And dwell with darkness drear forevermore.

No words, alas! nor efforts can avail
 Nought can I do, poor solitary child!
 Nought can I do but make my bitter wail,
 And pace the room with cries and gestures wild.

Carelessly weeping, till my snowy sleeve
 Is wet with tears? Who knows! Perchance again
 Wasted they're borne upon the sighs I heave
 On 'Arima's far distant heights to rain.

—*Basil Hall Chamberlain.*

These touching lines were written by the celebrated Japanese poetess Sakanouhe (Obotomo, Sakanouhe, no Iratsume) who flourished in the early part of the eighth century. She was the daughter of the Prime Minister and commander-in-chief, Saho Dainagon Obotomo no Yasumaro, was married to the viceroy of the island of Tsukushi, (modern Shi koku) and was both aunt and mother in-law of the celebrated Yakamochi. Prof. Chamberlain tells us that Japanese critics highly esteem her compositions.

Of the Korean nun whose death is here mourned little is known. A note appended to the original poem is translated by Prof. Chamberlain and tells us that Riguwan, desirous of placing herself under the beneficent sway of the Japanese Emperor, crossed over in the year 714 and for twenty-one years sojourned in the home of Sakanouhe. We know there was an emigration from the peninsula to Japan of Buddhist missionaries in the sixth century and it is probable this young woman went in the hope of propagating the doctrine among the Japanese women. She must have been a woman of rank or she could not have become a member of the family of the Prime Minister, Obotomo. She died in 735, while the Minister and his wife were away at the mineral baths of Arima, a mountain retreat not far from Kobe. The daughter of the house, Sakanouhe, was alone present at the death and interment, and afterwards sent the stanzas above given to her mother. The elegy is found in 'The Classical Poetry of the Japanese,' translated by Professor Chamberlain.—Ed. K. R.

AROUND THE PENINSULA TO VLADIVOSTOCK.

THE mission assigned certain duties to the writer which called him to Wonsan. I had not visited the thriving northeastern port for eight years and was happy to make the trip. After some consideration, it seemed best to go by the way of the sea. The comfortable steamer, *Sagami Maru*, of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha line, was taken at Chemulpo on September 15th. We went straight to Nagasaki, a distance of 446 miles, where we tarried three days; thence back to Fusan, the southeastern port of Korea, 160 miles; thence up along the eastern coast 304 miles, or a total of 910 miles. The shortest distance from Seoul to Wonsan overland is 150 miles so that ours may be called the farthest way round.

The few hours the steamer remained at Fusan gave us an opportunity to call on the Acting Commissioner of Customs, Mr. E. Laporte, whose services for many years as first assistant at Chemulpo, and whose close application to the duties of his office has made him familiar with all its intricacies and responsibilities, and prepared him for the promotion last summer to the commissionership at this place. He reports in the Kyeng Sang provinces a very large crop of rice and beans this year.

Fusan, like all the ports of Korea, has grown considerably the last four or five years. The Japanese town is by itself, no other nationalities we believe are allowed to settle within its limits. But the Chinese, and more especially the Koreans, are crowding onto its borders. When I first landed in Fusan in April, 1885, there were only a few huts between the port and the Japanese town, and the Korean village three miles away; now there is hardly a place along the whole way where there are no houses. What was a mere by-path over the hills, has become quite a respectable road.

In this place there are two missions at work, the Northern Presbyterian of the United States and the Australian Presbyterian. The former is the older and has two families and

one single lady; the latter, one family and two single ladies. There are also two families of the former mission living in Taiku, the capital of the South Kyeng Sang province. A visit to the dispensary of Dr. Charles H. Irvin of the Northern Presbyterian mission was all the short stay of the steamer allowed, but I was well repaid. To begin with Dr. Irvin professes to believe, and if the splendid equipment of his dispensary and excellent results are to be taken as a criterion, he puts into practise his profession, that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well. He first took us to the waiting rooms for the men and the women, so arranged that tho the screen has to be used, both can hear. The floors are heavily matted with material brought from Japan, the walls are papered and tho the paper has been on for upwards of two years, its cleanliness called forth the remark from my fellow traveller, the Rev. N. C. Whittemore of Pyeng-yang, "How do you manage to keep it so clean?" The answer of Dr. Irvin I have forgotten tho I am inclined to think it was evasive. The shelves of the dispensary are well filled with bottles some of which we were told awaited the arrival of an order, as the supply on hand was rather low. The operating room is large, airy, and has plenty of light. In the doctor's private room or office, in addition to a well-worn copy of Gale's "Korean Grammatical Forms," we saw a good supply of Scriptures and tracts. Dr. Irvin went to Fusan four years ago, the successor of Dr. Hugh Brown, whose ill health made his return to the United States imperative. Self-support is the rule in this dispensary and the rule works as is shown by the following: the first year the receipts were 35 silver dollars; the second 350; and the present closes with a grand total of not less than 650. This rapid increase is not due to the sale of quinine to the merchants, but represents the actual money received for medicines from those treated by the doctor. With a single exception this is probably the best showing on the line of self support in medical work in Korea. It is due to Dr. Irvin to say that the poor, those who are really unable to pay for the treatment required, are not turned away. They receive the same care they would were they to pay the full value of the medicine they receive. This is as it should be. A policy like this will not pauperize; it may cut down the number of patients for a while, but in the long run it will be sure to give strength and permanency to the work. Results of this kind go far to show that free dispensaries are not needed in Korea and that the people are both willing and able to pay for the medicines they need, or at least to pay in part.

The Australian Presbyterian mission under the guiding

hand of the Rev. A. Adamson is meeting with encouraging success. The Rev. Joseph Henry Davis, an accomplished scholar and enthusiastic missionary, together with his devoted sister, was the founder of this mission. His untimely death caused by small-pox taken while journeying overland from Seoul to Fusan was deeply mourned by all his co-workers. Mr. Adamson tho only a few years in Korea, has gathered around him a small congregation and has opened a school. The ladies are living in the Korean village and are thus brought into closer relations with the Koreans, which has great advantages and disadvantages as well.

The eastern coast of Korea is mountainous; the indentations or bays affording excellent accommodations for small trading vessels are few; the cragged and frowning peaks of the Diamond Mountains rising to nearly 6,000 feet from the sea are plainly visible from the deck of the steamer. There is a place called Chang Chun right by the sea, which Dr. McGill and others who have visited it have marked as an almost ideal spot for a summer resort. This place is but five miles from Sin Kei Sa—New Course Temple—being one of the largest in the mountains and situated in a very picturesque and romantic spot. Won-chung or Hot Springs are only four miles from the coast and less than a mile from the temple. As a summer resort Chang Chun is easily reached by the coast steamers, and even larger vessels could stop near enough to allow passengers to disembark. The bay was pointed out as our steamer passed by and if it should be made known generally I doubt not would attract those seeking mountain resorts away from the bustle and confusion of the crowded and busy city.

A sail of thirty-five hours from Fusan brought us to Wonsan or as the port proper is called, Gensan. Of this growing port I hope to write more in a subsequent paper. The ship's company being congenial, and other things favoring I decided to continue the voyage to Vladivostock, the booming, bustling and important military fortress of Eastern Siberia.

The stranger who proposes a visit to Siberia is apt to be seized with mingled feelings of curiosity and perhaps anxiety. Visions of Siberian exiles with all their real and imaginary suffering rise up before him; he sees the police dogging him and fancies bayonets pointing at him from every corner; he may not dare to look at the forts lest the cannon belch their cold lead at him; he looks upon his passport as the one sole anchor in which to trust in the various trials thro which he is sure he will very soon be called to pass; he has crude notions whether the place is inhabited by Cyclops or Lilliputs; by barbarians or by civilized

chorage a short distance from the landing. Prince Henry left the morning of our arrival in his flagship, the *Deutschland*. He had been in Siberia for several weeks and his party spent part of their time in the interior shooting, with what success I have not learned. After breakfast, or about half past nine o'clock, the police officer came on board and the examination of passports began at once, which amounted to simply noting on the back the date of arrival which according to the old style was September 12th. This done we went ashore. For three days we went wherever we wanted to without the least hindrance or molestation, even to going some thirty miles into the country on the railway train. There may be espionage, your movements may all be known to the authorities; if so they have the happy art of keeping you in ignorance. For the three days we were in Vladivostock the weather was glorious. In midday the sun was warm but the mornings and evenings were cold. The weather is fully a month ahead of Seoul.

Of military Vladivostock I have nothing to say, for the all sufficient reason that I know nothing. The sailor, the soldier, the captain, the general, are all met on the street. The *Rurik*, one of the largest cruisers in the world, was in the harbor, as well as three or four other warships; the two floating dry docks were occupied by ships; a few cannon were seen on several elevations around the town, at the bases of which in four languages, Russian, French, German, and English, was the notice, "Entrance is prohibited." The Russian military official is always manly and dignified in appearance; the private soldier is not always so and the same may be said of the sailor.

Civil Vladivostock is more interesting. Vladivostock means "Possession of the East." Forty years ago the place was a wilderness, now it has a population of 14,000. From the western limit of Tiger's Point to the far eastern extremity of High street or Main street is at least five miles and the town straggles over these hills. The town is laid out regularly, the streets crossing at right angles. The city has just emerged from its first or chrysalis stage. The log cabin has given place to the brick house; the wooden pavements are being replaced by granite flagging. The Chinese, who seem to have all the building jobs, are busy at work. There is not a square seemingly where a building of large dimensions is not going up, and in some squares there are several. All are put up to stay. The transition period is past and the permanent stage has arrived. The man or firm erecting buildings in Vladivostock has come to stay. So it seems to the visitor. Everybody is busy and rushing about. The clink of the mason's trowel, the ring of the stone

beings. Thus his ignorance becomes a sort of perennial fountain to supply his superstitious fears and he could with but little external assistance work himself into a horror of what he thinks is before him as easily as a Korean will persuade himself of the desirability of putting off everything for to-morrow that he can possibly get out of doing to-day.

We entered Peter the Great Bay in the afternoon of the 23d, and arrived at the outer harbor a little after sundown. The extreme outer fortifications begin to appear. The moon is in the west. The light is sufficient to give the outlines of the sides of the shore. The water is still. A sharp turn almost at right angles and you are in the inner harbor. The lights shine forth brightly; in your front on the land you see the brilliant electric lights of what you afterwards learn is the general store of the German firm of Messrs. Knirst & Albers, and on the water you see the lights of the ships at anchor. On your right is the Golden Horn which you are later assured is mined and fortified and that it blazed out in search lights everywhere and in unsuspected places on the night of the farewell reception given to Prince Henry of Prussia, and to the Grand Duke of Russia who were in Vladivostok at the same time. Your ship anchors well down the harbor. It is half past eight but the doctor and the port officer and police officer do not come out after six in the evening and you look again at both sides of the shore, think of beautiful lights along the shore and with pent up feelings turn in for the night.

Early the next morning we were up and on deck looking at the town that is springing up with such amazing rapidity. A young Russian cavalry officer who had been away for only ten months told us there were many new buildings erected in that short interval. On the peninsula washed by the Amur bay on the north, the highest point of which is called Tigers' and surmounted by several cannon, there are upwards of a dozen military buildings of brick and stone, substantial, permanent, two and three stories high, effective to keep out Jack Frost in winter and any other jack who may assay to enter. These buildings might easily pass for college halls, dormitories, and so forth, were education the chief object of the place. The impression you get of the place from the deck of your ship is that it is impregnable.

The doctor and the officer of the port arrived between seven and eight o'clock; the second and third class passengers lined up on deck were examined, passed, and as the doctor went down the gangway he called back to the captain of the ship: "You can go." The ship then weighed anchor and went to her an-

cutter's hammer, and the sound of the carpenter's ax are heard on all sides. The Russian is the master of the town the German the merchant; the Chinaman the artisan; the Japanese the photographer, and the Korean—would I did not have to say it—the coolie. There are some twenty-five Americans in the place and the first U. S. Consul went there only a few days before us. The firm of Messrs. Clarkson & Co. run a line of ships once a month between Vladivostock and Oregon. Flour and lumber from the Pacific states, and beef from Kansas are the chief articles of import. We saw on the landing hundreds of bags of wheat flour from the mills of Spokane.

The Chinese and Koreans live together. Their settlements are in the northwestern part on the cold side of the hill. The prosperity so generously ascribed by Mrs. Bishop to Koreans in Manchuria one fails to see in the Korean town in Vladivostock. The Rev. Dr. Henry Linsdell in "Through Siberia" tells us, "The Koreans were described as very industrious." This may be accepted as correct. They are in competition and must be active or they will be run over. Mr. Whitternore and I made two visits to the Korean village; one on Saturday afternoon which was short and unsatisfactory, and the other on Sunday afternoon. The first thing that attracted us on the second visit was an enraged woman reasoning in vigorous and vociferous speech with what I suppose was her husband who had to all appearances worshipped too long that day at the shrine of Bacchus. His answers to her categories were unsatisfactory and like a tiger falling upon his prey, she flew at his top-knot with a ferocity that was appalling. She pulled him down, thumped him, stepped on him, cuffed him, dragged him around the street all the while giving him that dreadful and mysterious something called by Koreans "yok," and defined by foreigners as "abuse," but the depth of the meaning and the horror of the word we foreigners, I am persuaded, have yet to fathom and to feel. I am always tempted on seeing performances of this kind to take the part of the one that is underneath but the company of Korean and Chinese bystanders were so evidently in sympathy with the woman putting in such vigorous and effective blows that I decided it best not to interfere. She got the man home and for ought I know to the contrary may be laboring and belaboring him yet.

Going up the hill a short distance we entered a yard where stood a neat dwelling house. The owner, a dignified and elderly gentleman of the well-to-do class, came out and greeted us. After the usual salutations we fell into conversation. His house, he informed us, cost over four hundred dollars, a price

considerably in advance of houses of that grade in Seoul. The Russian government does not allow the thatch roof and mud wall any longer, tho in 1878 when Dr. Lansdell visited the settlement it did. He says he "went into some of their houses, the walls of which were of mud plastered on a framework of straw." The sides and roofs of the houses now are of boards. For the rest, the low rooms, the open kitchen, and the filthy drains around the huts, called up familiar scenes in the Empire of Daihan.

I took out my Korean passport and was much surprised, tho on a moment's reflection I should not have been, to find in the small company not a man who was able to read the Chinese characters in which such documents are always written. In the museum and library the following day I found a Russo-Korean phrase-book, Russian on one page and the Korean translation on the opposite one. In my note-book I see I made the following comment: The Korean is poor, of the Russian I cannot judge. One is not warranted from these two instances to jump to the conclusion that education is entirely neglected. The reason Koreans drift to these northern regions is the necessity to find a means of livelihood, to keep soul and body together. They have neither the inclination nor ability to "learn the character." Their's is a life of hard toil.

The Korean population was smaller than I expected to find it. A policeman, who I am not sure whether he was a Russian or a Korean, as his speech did not betray him and he was dressed in European clothes, told us there were only about two hundred houses.

"How do they get along here?"

"Not well."

"Why not?"

"Because of drinking and gambling."

From other sources I got the impression the population was constantly changing, — coming and going.

A visit to Vladivostock is not complete without a visit to the cathedral of the Greek church. As we were in port over Sunday we had an excellent opportunity to see the peculiar services and hear the splendid singing in the Greek church. As the visitor enters he is struck with the churchliness and the non-churchliness of the place. The high dome, the graceful arches, the beautiful pictures on the windows, the richly decorated altar, the priests in splendid vestments and the reverent attitude of the people one is familiar with in ritualistic churches. To the uninitiated the continuous moving, coming and going of the congregation, the traffic in candles, food and so forth, whether only

seeming or real, appear strange, and the entire absence of pews make him feel that he is not in a church. While we were there the Bible and a golden crucifix were blessed after which the congregation crowded to the front and kissed them. Food likewise received the benediction of the officiating priest and was then distributed among the poor who are found at the door and within the walls of the cathedral. With this the morning service ended and the doors were closed.

On Monday we went to the depot to take a trip into the country. We had seen the sights of Vladivostock and were anxious to see something of the country. The train was to leave at half past eight. As we knew no Russian and as the agents were equally proficient in English and German, we had some difficulty in getting tickets. Thro the kind assistance of a Korean at the lunch counter we finally secured the tickets for a place some thirty miles out. Mr. Whittenmore improved the time while I was buying the tickets in studying up the Russian time tables with the result that he concluded they were old and unreliable. The train ran slowly, and stopped frequently. A gentleman from Australia, who travelled on the steamer with us, went 500 miles into Siberia, making the distance in forty hours while we went at the rate of sixty miles in four hours. The railroad runs along the Amur Bay. The country is a rolling wilderness and but sparsely settled. The soldier is found everywhere; the Chinese and Koreans do the manual labor.

In the afternoon we spent several hours in the library connected with the museum. We were interested to find several extra numbers of the first volume of THE KOREAN REPOSITORY on the shelf, which we are ready either to buy or to exchange for any other numbers that may be desired.

The next morning the officer of the port came aboard, once more examined our passports, and soon afterwards we weighed anchor and slowly steamed out of the harbor. The last thoughts of the place were like the first—impregnable.

IN CITY AND COUNTRY.

THE following report was read by the author at the recent Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Mission on the 22nd inst.—ED. K. R.

TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE AND LITERARY WORK having been placed first on the list of my appointments I turn first to them.

In connection with Bible work, First and Second Timothy, Titus, Philemon and Jude were during the past year translated and revised and have been put thro the press.

Philippians, Colossians and First, Second and Third John have been rerevised and printed. Considerable time has been spent in connection with regular meetings of the Board of Translators when the revision of Matthew was completed and Mark was also thoroughly revised. It was hoped that Luke would also have been done but the proposed meeting could not be held.

I have, however, taken Luke and thoroughly revised the same, endeavoring to make it conform to the decisions arrived at in Mark and Matthew.

Considerable attention has also been paid to work on the Psalms of which over two-thirds have been translated. Some of these, however, will need revising before publication.

The Sunday School lessons have been prepared during the year and while we much regret the poor quality of the proof reading, the proof readers are becoming more and more proficient and we hope the mistakes will be much less the coming year. Special services for Easter and Whitsuntide were also prepared and the day was made the occasion for the prominent presentation of the subject it commemorated.

A large sheet calendar or Sunday sheet for 1899 has also been prepared for the Korean Religious Tract Society and is now in Japan to be printed.

THE CHRISTIAN NEWS has during the past year been increased in size and is now a ten-page weekly. Its circulation is steadily on the increase and the special editions on special days with illustrated supplement met with marked success.

Early in the year the idea of preparing a book of the prayer-

meeting topics that were to appear in the *Christian News* suggested itself and a little booklet was issued which contained in addition a few words on the importance of the prayer-meeting and the best method of conducting it.

A similar book will be issued this fall and has been prepared by Mr. Miller who will have charge of this department during the coming year. Arrangements have been made with the Korean Religious Tract Society to use the same topics and it is hoped thus to stimulate and develop this important phase of Christian work.

Reckoning in the manner called for in our printed forms aside from Bible Committee work, 1,756,000 pages have been printed during the year. This gives rather an exaggerated impression of the work done as it represents largely lesson leaves and the newspaper.

EVANGELISTIC WORK. With regard to this as in fact with regard to all my work it should have been stated that with two months taken out for a health trip and almost another month in a trip to Fusan not quite ten months are left to be reported for.

Mr. Moore having returned during the year the work in Pai Chun, Keum Chun and Pyeng San mentioned in my report last year has been returned to him and of course will be reported on by him. That in Kok San and North East Whang Hai and Chuk San, Chung Ju, Kwa Chun and South East KyungKeui mentioned by me last year will be returned on by Mr. Miller.

During the past year I have taken three trips into the interior and spent ten weeks in itinerating. On these trips more or less protracted stops were made at Pai Chun, Yurn An, Hai Ju, Chang Yun, Song Wha, Eul Yul, Pong Chun, Haing Ju, Kim Po, and Tong Jin. At all these places books were sold, services held, enquirers talked with or Christians admonished and encouraged.

Early in the year the Magistrate of Eul Yul had called upon me and asked me to be sure and visit him the next time that I should visit Chang Yun. I replied that my trips to the country were to preach Christ and that if I came to visit him it would only be for this purpose. To this he gave his assent and said he would be glad if I would come down and preach there. In compliance with this request we visited this place and the Magistrate providing a large hall we had a series of Gospel meetings at which Christ was preached to listening crowds and a number of small books were sold. At this place

I now hear that a building has been set aside for religious worship and regular services are being held.

The activity of the Chong Dong Church has been continued during the past year and the report of last year should be duplicated. The discontinuance of the boys' school and the regular meeting of the Chan Dari people at their own chapel should have materially lessened our attendance but the places thus vacated have been filled by others. We still feel the need of enlarged quarters and had a site been decided upon the natives would have already begun upon a new building. Some funds are now in hand and if the site could be secured work would be begun at once. The year has been a hard one in this section owing to the poor crops of last year. Rice has trebled in price and we in Seoul have felt it in the contributions. Despite this we report as follows:

For Education	Yen 24.00.
For Buildings and Repairs	115.00.
For Home and Foreign Missions, etc.	168.63.
For church expenses	48.64.
Total	356.27.

There have been added to the Chong Dong church by baptism 20 men and 22 women, total 42, and 43 as catechumens. They hold now thirty-seven meetings at seventeen different places during each week.

A young people's society was organized and promises to do well. They have undertaken mission work in two parts of the city.

A meeting for Class Leaders, Sunday School Teachers and church officers still continues to meet at my house once a week for Bible Study and conference about the work.

Chandari continues to thrive and reports a number of very interesting revival meetings in the early spring. They still contribute to the support of Mr. Yi Won Sun.

Haing Ju. In Haing Ju the work is developing well. The growth of the work here made it necessary to divide the church and to set off another congregation at Sa Moui. A number of professed catechumens left and joined with the Romanists. In consequence of this a good deal of opposition and persecution has arisen. This has already done good and I had the pleasure in September of finding a large new church with care taker's house and sarang that had been built in spite of the withdrawal of the Sa Moui members and of the severe famine from which the people in this district suffered more than anywhere else.

I have visited the place four times during the year and have

had the pleasure of admitting by baptism 26 men and 26 women and 13 infants, and as catchumens 32.

Sa Moui. The Sa Moui church was set off by itself, as has been said, at the beginning of the year and altho it consisted at first of only ten members has grown to an adult baptised membership of 67. 500 per cent in one year.

I visited this church for the third time in September and found that they had already secured a church building that was to be used temporarily, and have their eye on a site for a large and commodious chapel. I enquired as to what they were going to do and could not find out definitely. I am inclined to think that they desire to have the same surprise for me that the Haing Ju people had. It is not an unpleasant surprise to go in on one of your charges and to find that they are waiting for you with a brand new church that they desire you to dedicate.

In this place I have received 30 men and 27 women and 16 infants by baptism, and have enrolled 41 catechumens.

Kim Po. A little jealousy, without any real cause, sprang up in the minds of some of the older members toward brother Shin Hwa Soon but just as in the case of the dissensions between Barnabas and Paul this too was over-ruled for good in opening up work in another place. While brother Shin's mind was brooding over this in perplexity and trouble in obedience to the dictates of a dream which he believed was sent by God he crossed the river to the Magistracy Kim Po and here he found that there was quite a good deal of interest and several who had got books that were desirous of knowing more of these things.

Here at almost the beginning of the work a noted gambler and pugilist was converted and with the vigor that he had put into the service of the devil he began to work for Christ. A Christian in Seoul who owned a house in the place gave it over for the use of the church and a good work was begun. A great deal of persecution was met with but they have come out of it all the purer and better.

During the year there have been received there 12 men, 7 women and 2 infants by baptism, and 12 catechumens.

Tong Jin. Kim Chi Sok of Tong Jin, hearing of the change in his friend the pugilist, went to see whether these things were so and was soon convinced by what he saw and heard of the Gospel that it was the truth. He took books and told his brother who received the word gladly and at once they destroyed all the signs of heathen worship. They together went and told their uncle who too believed, and now there are these two little neighborhoods where all the signs of heathen worship have been destroyed and where the one true God alone is worshipped.

At this place there have been received during the year 21 by baptism and 18 catechumens.

WORK IN WHANG HAI. *Yurn An.* The Chong Dong Church started a new work in the southern part of the Yurn An Magistracy at the village of Sak Kai.

In this village in over one-half of the houses all the idols have been destroyed. Work has been going here for over a year and 35 catechumens have been enrolled but none have as yet been baptised. Right here in this connection it might be well to note the difference between the work of brother Shin Wha Soon and so many of the other workers. A special work of grace follows wherever brother Shin goes and you can almost tell that he has been there by the work done. A poor illiterate man, he has been taught and used of God in a marvelous way and the whole work in Haing Ju, Kim Po, etc., is all under God the result of the voluntary unpaid work of this one man.

Hai Ju. At Hai Ju the work is slowly progressing. There are a number of professing Christians but as yet it has not seemed best to admit any of them even as catechumens. A goodly number of women are striving to follow Christ and meetings are regularly held at two different places in the city.

The various Christians in the province have been feeling that something should be done at this centre and have been putting forth a good deal of effort which will doubtless bring forth fruit.

A Christian from Pyeng-yang has moved to Kom Dani as a school teacher and has already begun a work there that is well spoken of but that has not as yet been visited by a foreigner. At their request a Christian from Chang Yun went over to assist in the work and great things are expected. To the south, too, in this same Magistracy of Hai Ju at Masan a work is beginning and thus we are advancing on the capital.

Chang Yun. The whole work in this district centres around the work in Sorai. There is everywhere a steady tho comparatively slow growth. It is watched over with much care and solicitude by the church and church officers of Sorai and they reap a rich blessing in the work for themselves.

An extended tour was taken in the spring in the company of Mr. Alexander Kenmure of the British and Foreign Bible Society during which time a large number of services were held in the places visited. Arrangements were made looking to the building of two new chapels, one at Song Wha and one at Chil Pong.

At the Magistracy of Chang Yun while we were there a building was given for a church and the funds were raised for putting it in order.

At the different places visited in this district there were received 26 men and 29 women by baptism, and 46 as catechumens.

SELF SUPPORT. As noted in former reports all this is the work of the natives, carried on and supported by them without any financial aid from the foreign church or missionary.

Both the Chong Dong and Chang Yun churches have a number of evangelists who are sent out and supported entirely by them and during the whole past year this whole work has been carried on by the Korean Christians.

The book shops mentioned from year to year are still doing good and a goodly number of people are reached by them. Their number is the same as last year.

The natives in this section have during the past year, despite their straightened circumstances owing to failure of rice crops built one large and commodious church, secured three other buildings that have been set apart for Church purposes, adorned and repaired three others and have considerable funds in hand for the building of two more.

They have paid all their own church and congregational expenses, have supported entirely two teachers and three evangelists, as well as employing temporarily a number of others. Much of the contribution is in grain, wood oil etc., and as a result no report could be obtained.

Partial reports from only three of the fourteen congregations give us a total of \$527.27.

The figures for the portion of work that has been placed under my care are then as follows: Nine organized self supporting churches have 14 church buildings or chapels with 42 meeting places and hold 92 weekly meetings.

There have been added during the year 237 by baptism and 252 catechumens making a church membership of 642 communicants and 352 catechumens. These hold 8 Sabbath School services with an average Sabbath school attendance of 601 and they support and conduct three native primary day schools with an attendance of 49 boys and 8 girls.

H. G. UNDERWOOD.

THE LATE MR. SOH.

I was moving post-haste for the Hermit Kingdom, spirit, heart, and soul, bound westward. The *Empress* was tumbling in her cargo with all but blue peter flying. A whirlwind of mental incoherency possessed me; farewells, not to individuals, but to western worlds! Continents and hemispheres, were skuttling about before me. What was man in comparison with these. Truly he was as nothing. But suddenly my attention was arrested by the report that a marvellous individual with huge padded trousers was in possession of the city. "Have you seen him?" was on every lip. Could he possibly be one of my hermit friends? thought I. My heart threw continents and oceans aside and went out after him in one supreme longing. I searched but in vain, up this street and down that. Just now he was said to have turned a corner; a moment later he was smoking a long pipe squatting on the curbstone to the entertainment of a thousand Klondikers; then he was seen stroking the bobbin or top-knot on the crown of his head and combing his locks upwards. At each additional report my heart beat faster, all evidence went to show that he was one of my own people, who had drifted across many waters to a distant world.

I discovered him at last in an inn on the water's edge, sitting on a western chair, indifferently surveying fifty or more miners who were circled about him. The miners, feet high in air, were indulging in the noble art of expectorating. The Oriental, for Korean he was, looked as tho many billows and waves had handled him. His hat lacked a ceiling. In its place desolation looked forth in the shape of a tuft of top-knot. His clothes were hopelessly soiled, his shoes were trampled out of shape, but his face was faultless, serene and unemaciated. He received me calmly. He was Mr. Soh travelling for pleasure and in the pursuit of "useful knowledge." He remarked that his (*il*) affairs had been in an unsettled state for a few days, but that gradually

they were acquiring the proper form, in fact his present condition was one of great hopefulness. He had no money, but Mr. Yi Pcm Chin was here in the interests of his countrymen, and he expected a remittance from him. If that failed he would run (*simpurim*) errands for some one. Again if that should fail he would attach himself to the suite of the British Consul on his passage eastward.

"My dear sir," I replied, "Mr. Yi Pcm Chin is miles from here. You also require a slight knowledge of English to run *simpurim*, and no one knows when the English Minister or Consul will come this way."

"Don't suggest evil," emphatically replied Mr. Soh, as he turned from me.

The landlord was leaning against his bar counter, chewing a cigar obliquely from the corner of his mouth. His first question, after listening to us, illustrates the superiority of England and America in the matter of refinement of speech. Rolling the cigar over to the other side, he inquired: "Where the—does he come from?" "He is your guest," I replied, "you ought to know." "He is not my choice and you can tell the beggar for methat he'll get out of here to-morrow by three o'clock or I'll fire him. I don't want a man in my hotel who don't know whether breakfast is in the morning or in the afternoon. Last night I caught him raking the clothes off the bed and lying on the floor. Besides," continued the innkeeper, "he's got more on his body than clothes or my name's Dinnis."

There was, however, no cause for anxiety, for that night the city council was to meet in solemn session to arrange for the Oriental who had drifted within their borders. I attended, in order to see what a municipal council could do with a man from the Hermit Kingdom. After sundry and various profound subjects had been discussed, the mayor said: "There is within our limits an Oriental who has no visible means of support. How shall we dispose of him?" A Scotchman arose: "I think it would be muckle better for a concerned if they keepit their Orientals at hame and no hae them come here to teach heathen customs to the popu'ace. I move that we mak the ship's company tak him back that brought him." No second. A second alderman arose and said: "He seems disinclined to work, I move we raise the necessary funds to dump him into the United States." No second. A third arose: "I move we put him in the Zoo." No second. Still another: "I move we let him alone." Carried by unanimous consent.

All this time Mr. Soh was placidly awaiting my return. I

announced to him that the city council was a body, not constituted for other people's benefit but for its own, that it was but a broken reed to rest on, and that it had refused to extend to him the hospitality of the city. Mr. Soh indignantly replied: "What kind of a town is this anyhow? Don't these (pyō sal banan saram deulli) officials come from London? I am personally acquainted in London and I shall use my influence to call these (nom duelli) rascals to account."

I remarked that these officials knew about as much about London as they did about China. "Have you no proper authority here at all then?" remarked Mr. Soh. I found it quite impossible to explain. He sat back a picture of offended dignity.

"Pardon me, but the rinnkeeper says you must leave here by to-morrow at three o'clock."

"That is a matter of indifference," said Mr. Soh, "I'll simply leave."

"But where will you go?"

"Anywhere," replied he.

"Where is anywhere?" I meekly asked.

"Please refrain from suggestions of evil," he replied emphatically.

It was already ten o'clock in the evening, so to change the subject, I proposed to visit a Chinese laundry in search of a job. He came reluctantly saying he saw no occasion for such (pero mokil il) beggarly business as this. We introduced ourselves to the owner of a laundry who had an army of assistants at his rear.

"How much a month for a man to do laundry work?" I asked.

"Makee ten dollar," said John.

"Then Mr. Soh, my friend, will work for you." Mr. Soh calculated by way of soliloquy: "Ten first month, ten second month, and five for fifteen days and I will have enough to carry me to Washington—twenty-five dollars."

"Wait," I remarked, "he has not accepted you yet."

"Will you take this man, John?"

"No can takee, no belong laundry man, he no savey my pidgin, no can give him anything," and Mr. Soh moved from the defilement of the Chinaman and his detestable presence. It was now almost eleven o'clock.

"I'm afraid you'll starve."

"Starve!" said he, the tuft of top-knot standing up defiantly.

"What do you mean? Why do you say those evil words? Have you been drinking? Why? Why? You can *ka* (go)."

I begged Mr. Soh's pardon: told him I had done very badly; that I hoped he would harbor no evil thoughts against me; that I had wandered for four hours that evening in an effort to persecute him; would he please forgive? and Mr. Soh in the magnanimity of his heart forgave me, promising underneath that electric light to remember my sins no more. Then we came to a perfect understanding and parted the best of friends, all shadow of the estrangement that had grown up between us having vanished.

He has not been heard of since, so I mark him the late Mr. Soh.

JAS. S. GALE.

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL JORDAN'S TRADE REPORT FOR 1897.

THE trade report of H. B. M. Consul-General, J. N. Jordan, C. M. G. for 1897 has been on our table for sometime. In the August issue of *THE REPOSITORY* we reviewed the trade report of the Consul-General of the United States. Mr. Jordan's report was received at the Foreign Office, May 30th; the other was published at Washington on the 16th of June. The two reports deal necessarily with the same facts in most instances, but the modes of presentation and the inferences drawn are not the same. The report under review notes the increase of trade amounting to 778,828*l* over that of its predecessor, "and if the present rate of progress is maintained, the somewhat sanguine prediction of a recent writer that the trade of Korea will attain a total of 10,000,000*l* sterling within the next quarter of a century, may possibly be realized."

The industries of Korea are few. The following remarks are of importance:

There is practically only one manufactured article on the list—paper—and that, though of excellent quality, is produced at a cost which admits of exportation only on a very limited scale. Indeed, foreign paper, especially Japanese, is imported in considerable quantities for use in the Government offices, and none of the many periodicals published in Korea are, so far as I am aware, printed on native paper.

The absence of manufactures is one of the great drawbacks to the development of Korean trade; another is the lack of enterprise which prevents the cultivation and proper preparation of articles for which the climate and soil seem to be well suited

Experiments in agriculture, for instance, which have been made by private individuals have proved so successful as to encourage the belief that silk could be produced in Korea quite as well as in Japan.

The manufacture of straw-braid is another industry to which attention might profitably be devoted.

The quality of the tobacco grown in the country is capable of great improvement. At present the method of cultivation is very defective, and the preparation careless in the extreme. The tobacco leaves when ripe are hung up to dry under the eaves of houses, and allowed to ferment into a flavour which may suit the Korean palate, but which is not calculated to stimulate its consumption elsewhere.

A species of the rhea plant is grown extensively, from the bleached fibre of which a very fine quality of grass-cloth is manufactured. The attention of foreign experts has been attracted to this article as affording a possible opening for an important industry, but the Korean method of preparation is said to be unscientific and wasteful. A specimen of the fibre prepared at Shanghai by a new decorticating process is forwarded with this report.

Mr. Jordan thinks the production of wheat may "possibly have the germ of future development," and quotes from a letter written him by Mr. Alexander Kenmure who was at the time travelling in the Whang-hai province. Mr. Kenmure says:

"The province of Huang-Hai seems to consist of broad plains crossed by low rounded hills. In the lowlands rice is grown, but wheat fields extend for miles, with here and there patches of barley. Approaching the capital, Hai-ju, a town with about 15,000 people, the soil is a deep reddish loam, large tracts still untouched, altho more and more is being broken up for cultivation. The farming is on a larger scale than in China or in other parts of Corea, the furrows being as long as in English wheat fields. There ought to be a good market for foreign ploughs, &c., and the people profess themselves anxious for instruction in farming."

We are inclined to the opinion, tho we frankly admit we have not as much ground for it as we could wish, that Korea will never take much rank as a wheat growing country. The plain around the capital of Whang-hai, mentioned above, may possibly produce good wheat but in the Pyeng-yang province where there are plains of sufficient extent, much of the soil is of that red clay not adapted to wheat culture.

Curiously enough, the re-appearance of wheat as an export seems to be one of the indirect results of the late war. The Korean farmer, noticing the superior quality of the wheat introduced by the invading army, procured some of it for purposes of seed, and the consequence has been a marked improvement in quality, which has enabled Korean wheat to find a re-entrance into the markets of Japan.

This example might be followed with advantage in other directions. Foreign residents have demonstrated to the natives that Corea is capable of becoming the best fruit-growing country in the far East, but the object lesson seems to be lost upon them, and Korean fruit, with the notable ex-

ception of walnuts, chestnuts, and persimmons, continues to be excrebal and quite unaffected by the importation of foreign varieties.

Mr. Jordan's remarks on fruit culture are to the point. He thinks, and quite correctly so, that "foreigners have demonstrated that Korea is capable of becoming the best fruit-growing country in the far East." We are glad for this expression of opinion. Small fruits like strawberries, raspberries, currants, gooseberries and the like do well in Seoul and vicinity as we know from personal experience. From the ports come similar reports of success. When we come to large fruit, such as cherries, grapes, apples, pears, plums and so forth, we have only to call the attention of our readers to the excellent articles in this magazine by General Dye. There are years when the fruit crop is a failure. In Seoul it is too warm for the winter apple and late pear, that is to say they ripen too early and will not keep. This is likely to be the case this year. On the other hand we were able to keep apples last year until near March. Further north, say in Pyeng-yang and in the American mining concession, we think the apple and pear will do well and we are looking to our friends living in those sections to prove or disprove what we here say. Of the native fruits the walnut, chestnut and persimmon are the best, the last one, of which we understand there are a dozen varieties, being regarded by foreigners as the best.

The report discusses at length the great increase in the exportation of gold and has the following observations on this point which we reproduce entire:

The export of gold dust has risen from 1,390,412 dol. (150,628 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) in 1896 to 2,034,079 dol. (205,527 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) for 1897, which is far the largest on record. A recent estimate made by an American observer put down the gold annually obtained in Corea at 3,000,000 dol. gold (300,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ %), and as there is reason to believe that the amount which leaves the country clandestinely is at least as large as that declared at the customs, the yearly output is probably not less than 5,000,000 dol. (or 500,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ %). The Wönsan export has remained at practically the same figure for the last two years, just under 1,000,000 dol. (say, 100,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ %), the increase for the present year having taken place at Chemulpo, where the export for the year is now almost as large as that of Wönsan, and more than double of the Chemulpo figures for the preceding year.

This is accounted for by the fact that a rich mine was discovered during the summer of 1897 at a place called Ho-Yang, on the plateau between Soul and Wönsan. At one time there were reported to be 40,000 people at the new field, but the number was probably largely exaggerated. Miners were

doubtless withdrawn to a certain extent from the old fields in the north, where the production was temporarily arrested.

The total export was divided almost equally between China and Japan, China taking slightly the greater share, whereas in the preceding year Japan was much the larger purchaser. The increased shipments to China are probably due to the continued depreciation of silver, gold being practically the only Korean product that can be sent to China for the purchase of Manchester imports.

It is curious to note that gold dust is a duty-free export, though coal and all other minerals are dutiable. The treaty exempts gold bullion from duty, and any attempt to impose a duty upon dust would doubtless be met by its conversion into bullion.

The decline in the importation of Manchester goods noted in last report is not repeated this year and the Consul-General is quite hopeful. He believes Manchester goods have regained the ground they had lost, not only this but have made "a very marked advance." He says,

It is gratifying to note that British imports, in which I noticed a decline in my last report, have not only recovered their former position but have made a very marked advance. Corea may now fairly be regarded as a promising market for Manchester goods, the annual import of which averages about 300,000/., and is likely to develop very considerably with improved means of communication, the opening of new ports, and the increased purchasing power conferred by a larger demand for its exports. Wherever one goes in the country, one finds Manchester goods sharing with kerosene and matches the honour of representing an alien civilisation.

Manchester grey shirtings have practically no rival in the Korean markets. The import for last year was 218,220/., against 177,098/., in 1896, while the import of the Japanese imitation remains under 5,000/.. During the first six months of the year a steady business was done, favoured by comparatively little fluctuation in exchange, and the customs returns at Chemulpo alone show an excess over the previous year of 33,064 pieces, valued at 150,000 yen (say, 55,000/..). The Chinese merchants expected that unfavourable exchange would result in a rise of prices during the second half of the year, but the introduction of the gold standard in Japan came as an unexpected relief, and by depreciating the value of the tael and Mexican dollar relatively to yen, the currency of Corea enabled merchants to lay down goods bought on the Shanghai market at prices which stimulated their sale in Corea.

During the past year I have personally on various occasions instituted inquiries into the state of the trade in Manchester goods, and the information which I derived from the Chinese salesmen of our goods in Corea, may

be of some interest as reflecting the views of those who come into daily contact with the consumers. The Chinese are almost unanimous in their belief that Manchester piece-goods are not likely to suffer seriously from Japanese competition in this part of Corea. The well-to-do Corean gentleman is very fastidious about his dress, and is quite prepared to pay for a good article. He affects cloth that comes out with a gloss and shiny appearance after washing, and the Japanese article fails to satisfy his standard of taste in this respect.

It is in piece-goods that the Japanese advance is chiefly making itself felt, and it is here that my Chinese informants and others complain of the absence of competition on the part of Manchester. The Japanese import rose from 69,826*l.* in 1896 to 93,683*l.* in 1897, and as the goods are used by the poorer classes, which form the bulk of the population, the trade is capable of very considerable expansion. These goods, which in the absence of any specific name may be designated Japanese nankeens, are made in imitation of Corean sizes and patterns, and surprise is often expressed that no attempt has been made to produce them in Manchester. Specimens have, I understand, been sent home at various times, but as no response has been made to meet the wants of the Corean market, it is probable that the British manufacturer does not consider the trade a profitable one or of sufficient importance to repay his attention. At the same time it should be known that the Chinese, who are the agents and distributors of Manchester goods in this country, are being compelled more and more by the demand to provide Japanese piece-goods. Mr. Oiesen, the Commissioner of Customs at Wonsan, whose opinion is entitled to weight, believes that there is a prize of 200,000*l.* annually, with a certain prospective increase, awaiting the Manchester firm which undertakes this branch of trade.

There is one curious feature which is said to differentiate English and Bombay yarn from Japanese, and to make greatly in favour of the latter. The statement has been so often made to me by Chinese connected with the trade that I feel justified in reproducing it without, however, professing to pronounce any opinion of its accuracy. It is universally asserted that the success of Japanese yarn is largely due to the manner in which it is twisted—from left to right, which is alleged to suit the manipulation of the Corean spindle. English yarn, being twisted in the opposite direction, is said to get loosened and tangled in the process. The fact was impressed upon me by the Chinese at Chemulpo, where the import of Japanese yarn just doubled in value during the past year.

The Koreans while using silk are unable to supply their own use. The following remarks are interesting:

The silk for the Corean market is specially manufactured in the neighbourhood of Chinking, and is quite different from anything worn in China.

Coreans like bright and fancy colours, children especially appearing on holidays in clothes of the most dazzling hues. It is amusing in this remote part of the world to hear the Chinese purveyor complaining of the impossibility of keeping pace with the ever-changing fashions of the Coreans.

The increase in the coast trade amounted to nearly 100,000, is noted as "one of the most gratifying features" of the trade of the year." The opening of the two ports, Chinnampo and Mokpo is referred to in the following paragraphs:

The event which will render the year 1897 memorable from a commercial point of view was the opening of the ports of Chinnampo and Mokpo to foreign trade. Early in July last the Korean Council of State of its own accord, and with an enlightened appreciation of the importance of providing fresh outlets for trade, passed a resolution which received the approval of the Emperor declaring both of these places treaty ports from October 1.

Both ports were opened on the appointed day, and altho there has not yet been time to test their commercial capabilities, there is every reason to believe that the step will have a marked effect in developing the trade of the country by bringing new and important markets in contact with outside sources of supply and demand.

The question of opening a port on the Ping-yang Inlet has been under consideration for the last 10 years, and has at last become an accomplished fact. Chinnampo is situated on the northern shore of the inlet, about 15 miles from its entrance, and will form the natural base of supply, not only for the city of Pyeng-yang with its population of 40,000 people, but also for two provinces possessed of large agricultural and mineral resources.

The port is closed by ice during a portion of the winter, which explains why its trade has so far scarcely figured in the returns.

Mokpo is situated in 34° 47' 30" N. lat. and 126 15' 30" E. long. in the southwestern portion of the province of Chulla—far the richest and most fertile in the Empire, from which the capital has in past years drawn the greater portion of its supplies. It lies at the mouth of a river which flows through a rich agricultural district generally regarded as the garden of Corea, and is within a day's journey of several large and flourishing towns. The new port already gives indication of becoming a large centre of rice export, and contains a colony of about 200 Japanese settlers with a Japanese consulate, post-office, and all the other accompaniments of Japanese civilisation.

General foreign settlements comprising an area of about 225 acres each have been laid out at both of the new ports, which are to be governed by an elaborate code of regulations framed by the foreign representatives in consultation with the Korean Government.

Various topics of minor importance are discussed such as

the "stamped" yen, general improvements at Seoul, the Seoul-Chemulpo railway which "cannot fail to give a stimulus to the trade of Chemulpo, which is fast taking rank as one of the most rising and prosperous of the minor settlements in the Far East. Its trade which is now over 1,000,000 L . a year, exceeds that of most of the smaller ports in China which were opened many years perviously;" the survey of the Seoul-Wiju railway; the German gold mining concession which gave the firm the right to select "anywhere in Korea, a few places excepted, a tract twenty miles long by thirteen miles broad, and of working all mines for a term of twenty five-years on payment of twenty-five percent royalty on net profits;" the increase of the postal system which, however, is "still worked in a very primitive fashion, and a visit to the central post office in Seoul does not impress one with the magnitude of the business or the efficiency with which it is conducted;" an absence of tax on houses in the capital which is due to the act of "a former king anxious to foster the growth of his capital, compounded for the payment of the import for 100 years, and altho the period covered by the commutation has expired it has not been considered advisable to revive the tax." The report concludes with six pages of tables relative to trade.

EDITOR.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

OUR SCHOOLS.

WITH the advent of the reformation of Korea in 1894 came a thorough and fundamental change in the educational system of the country. The civil service examinations, once so popular because affording the only way to political preferment, were abolished. A more modern method was substituted. Schools were organized from the primary to the normal with the university in the general plan but not marked out in detail. In 1896 in two papers of more than ordinary interest, the Rev. D. L. Gifford discussed in this magazine the old system of education and the new, and gave a brief but correct account of each school in Seoul at the time. Since then the work of enlarging and developing the general plan of education has been carried on with more or less success. There are now nine primary schools in this city with an enrollment of nearly one thousand pupils. The United States Consul-General, Horace N. Allen, has recently written on the subject of "Educational Institutions and Methods in Korea," the advance sheets of which were published in Washington September 7th, a copy of which is now before us. The Consul General attributes the "present favorable aspect of education" to the changes that came to Korea as a result of the Japan-China war. This is quite correct. We believe that education, Christian education, liberal education, is fundamental to the growth and stability of any government and we gladly give space to record the progress made in Korea in this respect the past few years. The report, from which we shall quote freely, is based on representations made by the teachers in charge of the several schools. We follow the order in which they are given:

American Methodist School.—The mission of the American Methodist Church maintains a flourishing school, which was originally started in 1886 under the name of Pai Chai, "Hall for Rearing Useful Men," a name conferred upon the school by His Majesty. Under an agreement made with the Korean Government in 1895, a certain number of pupils are placed in this school by the Government upon a compensation of \$1 silver (50 cents gold)

per month. The course of study, discipline, etc., is entirely in the hands of the mission. Attendance at chapel and at Sunday service is compulsory. From an attendance of 50 in 1895, the school has now 103 pupils; and 176 were in attendance at the close of last year's term—June, 1897. Japanese and Chinese youths are also received at this school. The school has 2 foreign teachers and 4 native assistants, with 3 instructors in the Chinese character. A very highly appreciated course of lectures has been a prominent feature during the past two years, being delivered by native-born Koreans who have lived long abroad and become thoroughly familiar with matters that interest the outside world. No money is given to any of the pupils of this school except for services rendered. Poor boys are given employment in the mission printing press, or bookbindry, and they thus learn a useful trade while helping themselves to a general education. A theological course was at one time furnished at this school, but it has been discontinued. The boys wear a uniform, and they have some drill in gymnastics and military tactics. One prominent feature of this school is the debating society, in which the boys have shown a remarkable aptitude for public speaking. From the course of study sent me by the principal, Rev. H. G. Appenzeller, I find that the preparatory course extends over three years. Reading, writing, and spelling are taught in the first year; geography, arithmetic and composition in the second; and history, algebra, drawing, physiology, and a course in the New Testament in the third. This is followed by a regular college course, which is only arranged for, however, through the sophomore year.

Normal School.—Seoul has another American school, taught by Rev. H. B. Hulbert, one of the three teachers sent from America in 1886. Mr. Hulbert's present school was started in 1897. It is meant to be a normal school for the drilling of native teachers, who may go out and take charge of primary schools for the people. It was the idea of the Government in starting this school to use the teachers prepared in it for establishing a regular system of public schools throughout the country. One of Mr. Hulbert's functions is to prepare text books for the use of these schools, a work in which he has had considerable experience. It is unfortunate that in connection with this normal school the Government has established a school for the teaching of English to the sons of nobles, thus preventing the teacher from devoting his time to legitimate work, as he desires to do. There are at present enrolled in the normal school 30 school scholars, while the English school under the same teacher has 35 students. The principal has 1 native assistant in the English department and 2 assistants in the normal department. The last two teach only the Chinese classics. As to the work, Mr. Hulbert says:

My work being, then, of a double nature and the assistance of little value, I found it necessary to confine the curriculum for the first year to

arithmetic and general geography. During the first year the men completed and thoroughly reviewed the whole of an intermediate arithmetic, the application of every part of which I adapted to Korean life and customs. This, in view of the utter lack of text-books, is encouraging and shows that the Koreans have good capacity along scientific lines. I found among the whole class three or four men who are exceptional mathematicians, even when judged from the standards of America or Europe. In the study of geography, I found that the interest was sustained, and the men applied themselves vigorously. The difficulty in the pronunciation of foreign names and the fact that the Chinese books have transliterated the geographical names in such a grotesque manner has been something of an obstacle; but in this branch I have made use of a gazetteer of the world which I published some years ago in the vernacular, and in this way I have succeeded in weaning them away from the Chinese pronunciation, which is so misleading. During the first, the men have completed the study of Europe, Asia, and North America. In addition to ordinary geographical matter, they have been taught the facts concerning the military and naval strength of the different nations, their foreign policy, their relative power, their educational and religious status, and a large amount of other special matter.

Japanese School. The Government Japanese Language School organized in 1891 comes next. Then follows a brief but interesting account of the school maintained by the "Foreign Education Society of Japan," called the "Keijo Gakko."

This was organized in April, 1898, "as a token of the sincere sympathy for the lack of a sound educational basis in Korea, with the view of giving a thorough elementary course of instruction to Korean youths, and thus aiming to form a true foundation of the undisputed independence of that country. Among the active members of the society are Messrs. Oshi-kawa and Hondo, most prominent Christians in Japan, and the teachers in charge of school are graduates of the Kyoto Doshisha School. It is supported by the voluntary contributions of philanthropists resident in Japan and Korea. It endeavors to teach all popular science both in Japanese and Korean." This school has two ordinary courses—higher and lower—of three years each and a special course for the teaching of the Japanese language of one year. There are 4 teachers, who receive only the actual cost of their living. The cost of the maintenance of the school is \$3,000 silver (\$1,500 gold). No charge is made upon the pupils, who are also furnished with text books and stationery free. Three dollars per month is given to meritorious students, and the best scholar is sent to Japan for further education at the expense of the school. The enrollment is 180 with a daily attendance of 100. No uniforms are supplied or worn.

Chinese School. On May 1, the Korean Government engaged a Chinese teacher from Peking to teach a Chinese school, with the object of turning out good Chinese interpreters and giving them a knowledge of the Chinese literature and classics. The school has a daily attendance of 35. The age of the pupils varies from 15 to 30. The students are divided into three

classes, and school lasts from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m., with one hour for lunch. There is no session on Saturday afternoon or on Sunday.

Russian School. From the Russian teacher, Mr. Birukoff, I have the following facts regarding the Russian Language School. This school was established in April, 1896, and numbers at present 88 pupils. These are selected now and then by the Educational Department, family influence having much to do in the selection. He has 3 assistants (natives), especially engaged and 2 who have been selected from the best of the pupils. No pupils will be graduated prior to January, 1899. The school has at present four courses; this number is arbitrary and may depend upon the number of pupils and their progress during the year.

As a rule, the Korean pupils show a special interest in geography and history and very good aptitude for mathematics. They write well, as far as orthography is concerned, but syntax is rather feeble. The greatest nuisance is the abominable pronunciation of Russian words, which sometimes make the speech of even the best pupils nearly unintelligible.

French School. One of the most successful schools in Seoul is the French school under Mr. E. Martel. Although it has only been in fair running order since January, 1893, French interpreters are met with at all Government departments and at the homes of many high officials. At the commencement of this school, it only had an enrollment of 17 pupils, none of whom know any French. The number of pupils has steadily increased, until it now has 100 in attendance, with 4 assistant teachers, chosen from the first class. The plan of this school is to turn out good interpreters and teachers of the French language, and at the same time to give them a working knowledge of arithmetic, history, geography, and bookkeeping, so that they may be fitted for the posts of clerks and assistants in the Government.

English School. The most important of the foreign language schools and the one with best equipment is the English school. The head master, W. Du Flon Hutchison, is a professional teacher of much experience, and he has as assistant master T. E. Halifax, who taught the first English school in Korea in 1883. The school was begun in November, 1894, using as a nucleus some students from a naval school Mr. Hutchison had been conducting with the aid of some English officers on the island of Kang-wha. The British residents have done a great deal in the way of encouraging the scholars of this school by contributing toward the purchase of neat and appropriate uniforms, teaching them such games as football and other college sports, in which the boys do excellently, and in offering prizes for the winners in the various sports. It is the plan of this school to give the young men an idea of general knowledge, in addition to the use of the English language. The masters desire rather to make manly youths of their boys, hoping that they may be induced to continue their studies, or at least have a desire for knowledge greater than they would have otherwise possessed. The school has had many backsets. A fine new building was taken away from them for some other purpose just as it was completed. A drill sergeant loaned to the school by the British admiral was allowed to leave, and they complain of having to work under many difficulties. The scholars of this school are from the middle classes, which

probably accounts for much of the school's success; since a teacher, however well qualified he might be, would be able to do little with the nobles' sons unless they were made to obey rules. There are 120 scholars enrolled in this school, with an average attendance for 1898 of 110.

Under miscellaneous schools the report discusses schools for girls which are "rather homes than schools."

"There have been many military schools in Korea at various times, under the charge of Americans, Japanese, English, and Russians. These have all passed away, and the Koreans have just organized a military school of their own, with no foreign instructors. I understand it is to be more of a school for drilling officers than anything else. It is the intention to take the tactics and commands they have received from their previous instructors and combine them into an "improvement of each," which will have the Korean language as a medium of communication. It has been a source of comment heretofore that English and Americans, Russians, and Japanese could hear the officers giving commands each in his own language, much to the bewilderment of the native soldier."

We may conclude this article by stating that a German Language School was opened this fall with Prof. Balljahn as head master and an enrollment of sixty pupils. If these several schools continue to improve in efficiency in the future we may be sure great changes will be wrought in Korean ways of thought. We wish these teachers every success in their efforts at training the body, the mind, and the heart of their pupils.

Annual Meeting.—We have the pleasure to record this month short accounts of the annual sessions of three missions having work in Korea. The reports submitted by the workers show most encouraging progress and results. We re-produce *in extenso* the admirable report of the Rev. Dr. Underwood of the Northern Presbyterian Mission which shows the advancement made in the line of self-support. Extracts from other reports as well as a study of the statistics will give the reader some small idea of the greatness of the work in hand now by the Protestant missionaries. In some quarters as in the north-eastern and south-eastern provinces it is a time of breaking up of fallow ground and of seed-sowing. In other places the toilers are rejoicing in the abundant harvest and calling loudly for more help.

The thoughtful student of missions in this country cannot but be impressed with the fact that the efforts put forth at present are limited almost exclusively to purely evangelistic work. All Christian work, whether in school or dispensary, if carried on in

the proper spirit is evangelistic and there is no occasion for any distinction to be made other than to call attention to the prominent fact that the efforts of the missionaries are centered on the direct preaching of the gospel. The chapel, the trip into the country, the private work in the room by the street, the distribution of the Scriptures and tracts, occupy the chief place in the mind of the worker. The missionary doctor has a larger representation in this country than anywhere else and the success or failure of medical missions will to a large extent be decided here in Korea. But so great is the call for evangelistic work that the doctor in a few instances has left his profession and in others, when he goes into the country, he leaves his medicines behind him. We state this fact and make no comment other than that we believe these workers see greater need for direct evangelistic efforts than for medical work.

The Northern Presbyterian Mission, vigorous, progressive, stirring, rejoicing in its conquest of souls, manifests little interest in educational work. Training classes in session a month or so during the year are held, but the direct result from these classes goes right back into the propagation of the gospel. The doctrine the brother learns, or thinks he learns, during this one month he must enlarge upon and add to during the remaining eleven months. We state the case correctly, we hope, but make no comment now.

We congratulate the brethren in these missions on their abundant labors and good success.

The Rev. W. M. Junkin furnishes us the following report of the

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION.

"This mission entered Korea in November, 1892, and its pioneers spent three years in Seoul working on the language, doing some mission work in connection with the Northern Presbyterian Mission, and preparing the way for the location of its stations in the southern province of Chulla. Its personnel is as follows:

Chunju Station: ('94)

Rev. L. B. Tate, '92, Fulton, Mo.
Miss M. S. Tate, '92, Fulton, Mo.
Rev. W. D. Reynolds, '92, Norfolk, Va.
Mrs. W. D. Reynolds, '92, Richmond, Va.
Rev. W. B. Harrison, '96, Lebanon, Ky.
Mrs. W. B. Harrison, '92, Abingdon, Va.
Dr. Mattie B. Ingold, '97, Rock Hill, N. C.

Kunsan Station: ('95)

Rev. W. M. Junkin, '92, Christiansburg, Va.

Mrs. W. M. Junkin, '92, Lexington, Va.

Dr. A. D. Drew, '94, Chase City, Va.

Mrs. A. D. Drew, '94, Danville, Va.

Mokpo Station: ('98)

Rev. Eugene Bell, '95, Shelbyville, Ky.

Mrs. Eugene Bell, '95, Louisville, Ky.

Dr. Hugh M. Owen, '98, Halifax, County, Va.

"The Seventh Annual Meeting convened at Chunju, the capital of the province, on Sept. 19th, and closed on the 24th. All members present except Mr. and Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Drew.

"The organization was Dr. Drew, Chairman; Mr. Reynolds, Secretary; Mr. Bell, Treasurer. Formerly the work of the mission was done by a number of committees. This year we succeeded in boiling ours down to about two committees. One on *Business* that does the work usually assigned to finance, property building, auditing, records, etc. The other on *Mission Work* that performs the duties of evangelistic, reinforcement, apportionment, narrative, etc. The advantage is that we are now able to fix a time for committee meetings and to meet. The only other committee is one on Bible Translation work, and an *Ad Interim* committee whose duty it is to transact certain emergency business between Annual Meetings."

For '99 the following reinforcements were asked for: Two ministers, one doctor, two single ladies.

The statistics are:—*Kun San* Members 1897, 9; 1898, 14; Catechumens, 9; Applicants, 2; Collections 40 yen.

Chunju—Members 1897, 6; 1898, 8; Catechumens, 13; Applicants, 15; Collections, 13.42 yen.

Total—Members 1897, 15; 1898, 22; Catechumens, 22; Applicants, 17; 53.42 yen.

Sunday Schools, 3; Sunday School Scholars, 5; Village Prayer Meetings 3; Native helpers, 3; Bible women 1.—W. M. JUNKIN.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

The Annual Meeting held next was that of the Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. We received the following report of the proceedings from the Rev. C. T. Collyer:

"The Second Annual Meeting of the Korean Mission, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, commenced on 17th September under the presidency of Bishop A. W. Wilson D.D., LL.D. Organization was effected by the election of C. T. Collyer as secretary. The work of this Mission was brought under review by

the reading of reports from the two stations (Seoul and Songdo) in connection with which a number of outstations have been established. The statistics show much cause for thankfulness and give every encouragement to press forward. The detail business was carefully gone into in a number of subsequent sessions.

"On Sunday 18th September in Union Church Bishop Wilson, assisted by Bishop Cranston, Dr. Scranton and Dr. Reid, ordained C. T. Collyer, who a year previously had been elected to elder's orders by the China Mission Conference.

"One of the most interesting sessions of the Meeting was held in the Mission Home of the Woman's Board. The report of Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Reid and Mrs. T. H. Yun showed that an encouraging beginning had been made in 'woman's work for women.' Miss Yü, M. D., reported that she had treated quite a number of out-patients who had come, quite unsought, to her.

"The working force of the Parent Board has been recently enlarged by the admission of R. A. Hardie, M. D., who for a number of years has been working in Korea for the Canadian Methodist Church. In a few weeks the Mission of the Woman's Board is to be increased by the arrivals of Miss Hindes from Kentucky."

APPOINTMENTS.

C. F. Reid, Presiding Elder and Preacher in charge in Seoul.

C. T. Collyer, Preacher in charge, Songdo.

R. A. Hardie, in charge of Medical work, Songdo.

Mrs. Campbell, Woman's work, Seoul.

Miss Hindes, Woman's work, Songdo.

COMMITTEES.

Course of Study:—C. F. Reid, R. A. Hardie and Mrs. Campbell were by the chair appointed a committee to look into the necessity of having a stated course of study for the Mission.

Text Books:—Dr. Reid, Mrs. Hardie and Mrs. Yun were appointed a committee to select suitable text books for Day School Work.

Auditing Committee:—Miss Hindes and Dr. Hardie were appointed a committee to audit the book of the Woman's Board.

Since the reception of this communication, the Superintendent of this Mission, the Rev. C. F. Reid, D. D., placed into our hands a printed copy of Minutes. The reports are full of intense interest. Dr. Reid gives the reader side-views of the natural scenery of the country thro which he travels. Our readers will remember the delightful description of a trip from Seoul to Songdo he gave us in a former number of THE REPOSITORY.

The report read at this meeting gives us in addition to interesting church news, bits of description of the country a few of which we shall give our readers the pleasure of sharing with us. He is travelling between Seoul and Songdo and visiting a section some eight miles east of the magisterial town of Pa-ju. "The surface of this section is very much broken but well watered, and the narrow but numerous valleys seem very productive. I have rarely looked upon scenes of such surpassing loveliness as lay spread out before the traveller from almost every eminence throughout this district. The people are thrifty and friendly."

He visited Chuk-sung "charmingly situated in a natural basin among the hills. Agriculture is the chief employment of the people and the products are red ginseng, wheat, barley and beans." Further on he comes to the village of Sulmachi. "The road to this village leads up thro a winding gorge just wide enough for the path and a babbling stream that comes rushing down from the mountains beyond. At the head of this gorge nestles the little hamlet, famous for the glazed pottery manufactured and which finds its way down to the Imchin river to Chemulpo and thence to all parts of the empire."

Here he found several believers who called themselves such. The case we think is a typical one in its main aspects of many who in their ignorance are trying to "do the doctrine." The leader of the half dozen men "appeared to be very sincere in his desire to be a Christian, but I noticed that a large part of his business consisted in the sale of native beer so much used by the Korean, and also that he had not yet taken down the fetish and that signs of devil worship were abundant. On my first opportunity I took him soundly to task about these things. He said that he had long wanted to be rid of them but that his women folk had opposed him so violently that he had not had the heart to put them away. He said if you will help me I will do it right now. To this I consented and we had quite a time in gathering up the old pieces of cloth, paper and bundles of straw that were hung in various places about the house and which had for many years represented to him the spiritual powers that had dominated his life and conferred blessings or calamities at will. As for the beer shop, he said it was the main support for himself and family, but that he would take the matter into consideration. In point of fact he shortly after closed his shop and has since been trying to make his support in some other way." This we believe is not an isolated case. Fetishes, idols, with all they involve must go and do go. Sometimes it is the man of the house who objects violently to the removal of the signs of idolatry; frequently it is he who patronizes most the beer

shop. But that these things are common and that they represent earnest and sincere efforts to come from the darkness to light we are happy to believe and to record.

We must resist the temptation to quote further from these accounts than one instance from Mr. Collyer's report. It shows the good work done by the bookstore. "Elsewhere we gave at length told the story of the man, a saloon keeper and gambler, who was converted thro reading some tracts purchased at the M. E. Book Depot in Seoul. He immediately closed down his saloon, gave up his gambling and gathered a few friends round him to whom he expounded the book. Thus commenced the work at Munsanpo, and which progressed so favorably that ten men and three women were baptized there during the year."

The statistics are interesting: Communicants, 105; probationers, 200; total, 305. Received into communion during the year 60; on probation 135. Bibles and portions sold, 911; tracts sold, 1,752. Contributions Seoul circuit, yen 100.47; Songdo circuit, yen 33.69; total, yen 134.16.

THE NORTHERN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION.

This large and eminently successful mission began its Fourteenth Annual Meeting on the 19th inst. This body has some of the leaders of thought in modern Korea and its history is honorable. More books have been published by members of this mission than by any other in the country. The first to enter the field of literature was the author of the interesting volume, "Korean Tales," a book that found a ready sale. Next followed Dr. Underwood with Introduction to the study of the language, and an English-Korean and Korean-English Dictionary. The first book has a prominent place in the course of study for missionaries in at least two and possibly more missions. After this Mr. Gale gave "Korean Grammatical Forms," a mastery of which is necessary to a thoro knowledge of the language. Mrs. Baird's little book, "Fifty Helps," has already passed thro the first edition, showing that a want was met in its publication. Two years ago Mr. Gale gave us his splendid "Korean-English Dictionary," a book that will always be a monument to the scholarship of the author and a credit to the missions that provided the funds for its publication. And last comes the charming little volume, "Every Day Life in Korea," by Mr. Gifford to which one may turn with feelings of relief after laboring over the heavy tomes mentioned above.

In the line of tracts and books in the vernacular, Dr. Underwood and Mr. Moffett take the lead, tho every one who has been in Korea any length of time has published something.

Rev. Jas. S. Gale was elected moderator and Dr. C. C. Vinton secretary. The usual routine business of receiving reports from the various stations occupied the first part of the session. The discussions following the reports contained little of interest to the general public.

The most important action of the mission was the proposition to hand over to the new Canadian Presbyterian Mission its work in the northeastern part of the Empire, or the two provinces, North and South Hamkyeng. This new mission sent five missionaries to begin work and they very wisely, it seems to us, asked to be located by the missions that know best the needs of the field. As a result of this transfer, Mr. Gale and his family will move to Seoul, while Mr. Swallen and his family will go to Pyeng-yang.

Rev. S. A. Moffett and Rev. F. S. Miller were appointed representatives on the Permanent Executive Bible committee.

In the assignment of work there have been but few changes other than these mentioned above. Miss M. Alice Fish, M. D., goes to Pyeng-yang; Miss Eva H. Field, M. D., and Miss Esther L. Shields will enter the hospital in Seoul.

Miss Georgiana E. Whiting, M. D., gave us permission to use her narrative report from which we shall make liberal extracts in our next number.

The Month.—This has been a busy month in the capital. The Annual Meeting of the Northern Presbyterian Mission; the sessions of the Council of all the Presbyterian bodies having missions in Korea; the public meetings of the Korean Religious Tract Society, took place this month. The Independence Club besieged the palace praying for the dismissal of the whole Cabinet; this was done, a new one appointed, and some of the new ministers so appointed about the middle of the month resigned before the end.

We saw the whole Club confess their transgression of an imperial edict and then clamor, some two hundred or more strong, at the gates of the Chief Commissioner of Police to be taken in and punished—a job too much for one day and one man, in the mind of the surprised chief. The Peddlers' Club assumed the re-organization of the government and gave it up as too Herculean. The President of the Independence Club was roundly denounced in a memorial as being too radical. The attempt to restore the right to torture and destroy the family of a man suspected of being a traitor and to confiscate his property was unsuccessful; the prayers of the Female Education Society for recognition and imperial support were answered

favorably and woman in Korea is to have an education as well as man; the first car was drawn over the Seoul electric road from the Mulberry palace to the power-house just inside the East Gate. The month closes with an immense mass meeting at Chong no petitioning to be given a voice in the management of the government, and the beginning of the trial of a man charged with murder in the United States Consular Court for Korea. Verily, the capital does move.

Imperial Coronation Day.—The 21st was the first anniversary, according to the Korean calendar, of the assumption of the imperial title. The change was really made on the 12th of October according to the foreign count. The day was observed as a holiday. The usual audiences took place in the palace together with a banquet to the diplomatic corps. The schools were closed and young Korea was enabled to spend the day satisfactorily because of the liberal donations to the pupils in the several schools by the Department of Education. This was a graceful act on the part of the department and it afforded an opportunity to give expressions to loyal and patriotic sentiments—themes as perennial to oriental as to the occidental students. What would the Korean student do if he could not give sage advice to the men who are having their turns at attempts to keep the wheels of this government moving. Perhaps some day we shall have a Minister of Education with the foresight and courage to change the thought of young Korea into other than purely political channels.

The first year of the empire is over. It has been a comparatively peaceful one. May the emperor live to see many more returns of the day.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

"Every-day Life in Korea." A collection of studies and stories, By Rev. Daniel L. Gifford. Fleming H. Revell Co., 12. pp. 231. Price, yen 2.50.

This is a delightful little book written in Mr. Gifford's easy and smooth style. What he tells us in these pages is largely based on personal experience or on personal verification. Mr. Gifford's mind is of that cast that moves slowly but surely and only when buttressed by well established facts. From the first sentence in the book to the last figure on the last page every statement made may be received with confidence. This does not exclude